

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-11.

Please add new claims 12-15, as follows:

- 1 12. Method for operating an account payable computing system,
2 comprising:
3
4 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
5 data base original electronic invoices received from a
6 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:
7 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
8 designation, same purchase order number, and same
9 item number;
10 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
11 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
12 same purchase order number, and said same item
13 number;
14 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
15 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
16 than zero;

17 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
18 transaction back to said vendor for said original
19 electronic invoice identified as a duplicate invoice
20 without posting said original electronic invoice to said
21 accounts payable data base; and

22 introducing said original electronic invoices not
23 identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts
24 payable data base.

1 13. The method of claim 12, said preprocessing including

2 first sorting said original electronic invoice against
3 an accounts payable production table for same vendor
4 and same vendor invoice number;

5 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same
6 purchase order billed;

7 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same
8 items billed on purchase order;

9 calculating a net sum of said same items; and

10 rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice

11 said original electronic invoice if it contains said
12 item with a net sum greater than zero.

1 14. A computing system, comprising:

2

3 an accounts payable data base;

4

5 a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from
6 among electronic invoices received from a vendor before
7 introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts
8 payable data base by:

9

10 identifying electronic invoices having a same vendor
11 invoice designation, same purchase order number, and
 same item number;

12

13 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
14 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
15 same purchase order number, and said same item
 number;

16

17 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
18 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
 than zero;

19

 an invoice processor for selectively automatically

20 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction
21 back to said vendor for said original electronic invoice
22 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said
23 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data
24 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not
25 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts
26 payable data base.

1 15. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly
2 embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to
3 perform a method for operating a computing system responsive to
4 receipt of an electronic input invoice from a vendor, said
5 method comprising:

6 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
7 data base original electronic invoices received from a
8 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

9 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
10 designation, same purchase order number, and same
11 item number;

12 calculating a net sum of items on invoices identified
13 as having said same vendor invoice designation, said
14 same purchase order number, and said same item
15 number;

16 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
17 electronic invoice for which said net sum is greater
18 than zero;

19 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
20 transaction back to said vendor for said original
21 electronic invoice identified as a duplicate invoice
22 without posting said original electronic invoice to said
23 accounts payable data base; and

24 introducing said original electronic invoices not
25 identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts
26 payable data base.

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are submitted preliminary to Examination of a second Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) filed herewith in the above identified application.

Claims 12-15 are in the case, none having been allowed.